



**Southern Regional Office (SRO)  
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701**

**DRAFT Minutes of the  
Broadway-Pantano Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site  
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 39<sup>th</sup> meeting**

September 26, 2007, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Eastside City Hall, Room A  
7575 E. Speedway Blvd.  
Tucson, Arizona

E-5460.14.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Cheri Bludau, Judy Burns, Dolores Fife, James Garrett, Janet Marcus, Aubrey McMullen, Jackie Olson, Wanda Ryckman, Michael Smith

CAB Members Absent: Carla Casler, Jean Sabo

ADEQ Staff Present: Gretchen Wagenseller, Project Manager; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Alison Jones, Tom Kimmel, Robert LeBaron, Bill Petroutson, Mark Brusseau, Bruce Prior, Monica Ramirez

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The meeting began at 6:35 p.m.

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

Co-chair Judy Burns conducted introductions of CAB members and public participants.

**2. Approval of Minutes for 5/9/07 CAB Meeting**

Dolores Fife moved to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2007, CAB meeting. Janet Marcus seconded the motion. The CAB voted; all were in favor, none opposed.

**3. Discussion and Vote on CAB Applications for Membership: Bill Petroutson, Mike Mahan, Mark Brusseau**

The CAB discussed the applicants-- Bill Petroutson, Mike Mahan, Mark Brusseau. They decided to vote on each applicant individually.

Bill Petroutson, Senior Hydrologist, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality, was introduced. The CAB said they were glad to have a hydrologist join the CAB.

Wanda Ryckman motioned to elect Bill Petroutson to the board. Michael Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The CAB voted all in favor; none opposed. He was invited to sit at the table.

The CAB discussed the application of Mike Mahan, with the Arizona Geological Survey, who was not present at the meeting. Jackie Olson motioned to elect Mike Mahan to the board. Wanda Ryckman second. There was no discussion. The CAB voted all in favor; none opposed.

The CAB discussed the application of Mark Brusseau, University of Arizona. Janet Marcus motioned to elect Mark Brusseau to the board. Wanda Ryckman seconded the motion. The CAB voted all in favor; none opposed.

Judy Burns said this brings the membership of the Broadway-Pantano CAB to 14; a quorum will now be eight members. Eileen Palese said she will notify Mike Mahan that he was elected to the board.

#### **4. Site Update plus Q&A**

Gretchen Wagenseller introduced Alison Jones, City of Tucson, Department of Environmental Services, to provide an update on the Western Containment System (WCS) [the city maintains the system.] She said two wells provide the containment, but one of the wells, C-26B, has not been turned on since August 14 because a part, the variable flow drive which controls the flow of the pump, was not working. The city has ordered a new relay switch and they hope to have the pump running again within the week. The breakdown was more complex to repair than first thought. The other extraction well, R-92, has been pumped at a greater rate to make up for the well that has been down. She pointed out on a map the location of the system and the wells.

Mike Smith asked about the current plume configuration shown on the display map. He asked if the changes he noted were related to the shutdown of the containment system. Alison Jones said the changes were most likely unrelated. Gretchen Wagenseller said she will explain the map changes when she presents the site update. Judy Burns asked if the down time is significant. Alison Jones said that the plume moves approximately a foot a day, so every day can make a difference in the capture of the plume.

Gretchen Wagenseller explained in some wells we are using transducers to monitor the water levels. She said any time the pumping rates change, ADEQ gets the data from the city and all of the data is compiled to create the plume maps presented to the CAB. She said the transducers are taking measurements daily. This allows ADEQ and the city to know what the groundwater flow direction is at any time. Plans are to install ten more transducers in the existing monitor wells. She explained how the data is stored in a computer by date. Alison Jones said transducers actually measure the weight of the water--the pressure above the device [and from these data, the water elevations are calculated].

Gretchen Wagenseller provided maps to the CAB—a groundwater elevation contour map, PCE concentrations in groundwater map, and a WCS groundwater elevation contour map. She pointed out where the transducers are located. Now there is more information by use of the transducers. She pointed out monitor and production well locations, particularly the “last-on, first-off wells” that are only used during times of severe drought or water shortage.

Dolores Fife asked why groundwater pipes would break. Gretchen Wagenseller said it can be because of many reasons, such as age or corrosion.

Gretchen Wagenseller explained the plume configurations on the maps and answered questions from CAB members. She said ADEQ has a consultant evaluating the effectiveness of the WCS. CAB members asked how long it takes for PCE to degrade. Alison Jones said there are a lot of variables, but PCE likes to degrade in an anaerobic (absence of oxygen) environment. She said the city is experimenting with a bioremediation technique at the Silverbell Landfill, injecting sodium lactate, a sugar, into the soil to see if that will have an effect.

Gretchen Wagenseller said that during the November sampling event they are going to be testing for a lot of the parameters for biodegradation. Some of the variables will be modeled during the Feasibility Study (FS). ADEQ wants to find out what might happen during natural attenuation in the groundwater. She said that in addition to PCE, there are other chemicals, such as vinyl chloride, just near the landfill, which is above the drinking water standard. This contaminant may take a different cleanup process.

Gretchen Wagenseller said that ADEQ has funding to install three wells to determine the depth of the contamination in the groundwater. She pointed out the location on the map, on Green Hills Avenue off of Kolb Road, and explained how the wells are screened. She said that this helps show the different levels of contamination during sampling, from shallow to deep. She said the new wells should be installed by the end of November. The locations are centered in the middle of the plume. She explained how the testing will be performed.

Bruce Prior, Tucson Water, asked why the state has funds to install monitor wells closer to the plume, which is a good idea to determine the depth and thickness of the plume, but not funding to install monitor wells on the northwest tip of the plume to determine what might have escaped.

Gretchen Wagenseller said that ADEQ management has decided that the greatest value will be to install the wells at the center of the plume. She said ADEQ also plans to purge BP-21 three times in November, as well as take depth-discreet sampling, to see what is happening to the PCE concentrations. She explained the sampling techniques. She said wells cost at least \$60,000.00 to install; the deep water table at the site makes it more expensive to install wells. She explained that ADEQ defines the plume with contamination that is above the Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS).

Bill Petrouson asked if BP-21 was one of the reasons the WCS was installed. Gretchen Wagenseller said no; that well was only installed a few years ago. The system was built in 2003 and it had taken several years to install. Alison Jones said what she believes the question is--did the peak of contamination at BP-21 get through before the WCS system was installed. Judy Burns said that is what most people assume, that some of it wasn't captured.

Michael Smith asked if it is true that there has been a significant decrease in the size of the plume. Gretchen Wagenseller said yes, and she believes this is due to the WCS extraction well. She said the system has done a good job. It does not remove the vinyl chloride, but that contamination is only near the landfill.

Gretchen Wagenseller explained that different remedies will be looked at to aid the WCS during the development of the FS. She said that ADEQ decided in August to do the contracting for the FS, (which is paid for by the state). She said she hopes to hire a consultant that is familiar with the site. The city of Tucson was previously offering to do the FS. The CAB asked additional questions about the recent sampling data.

Cheri Bludau asked where drinking water comes from. Bruce Prior explained that the potable water system is completely interconnected throughout the city, so when wells are turned off in a certain area, water is brought in from four different directions. Right now most of the water is brought in from the Avra Valley well field. He said Tucson Water attempts to keep all of its reservoirs filled, which is much better than an isolated well system. He said that water bills shows the water quality in different areas which is determined by monthly sampling for all the regulated constituents. He said if a well is operating 24-7, all they have to do is sample, but if it turned off, the well has to be purged first before sampling. Each well is on a sampling schedule. The water is tested at the well head, not in the pipes to homes. He explained that water pipes are near the surface, but the contamination is some 300 feet underground. He said there has been some soil contamination around the landfill. The Soil Vapor Extraction system has removed much of the contamination. Drinking water is pumped away from the landfill, so surface contamination is not a problem. CAB members asked questions about water quality and where bottled water comes from.

## **5. Call to the Public**

Members of the public had an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

Monica Ramirez, Coordinator, UA Superfund Basic Research Program, University of Arizona, College of Pharmacy, said that they had created publications on Chlorinated Solvent Contaminants in Arizona Aquifers,

and others, as part of a national grant program, which she explained. She provided copies of the brochures to the CAB.

## **6. CAB Outreach Reports**

Judy Burns asked CAB members to report if they have performed any outreach relating to the site. She said she is a member of the city's Environmental Services Committee, and quite often makes references to the CAB. Most of those committee members are aware of the WQARF site. Michael Smith says he does teach his students about the site.

Cheri Bludau asked what type of outreach needs to be done. Gretchen Wagenseller said that a prime time for outreach to the community will be when it comes time to determine a final remedy and to design a final cleanup system; public involvement is an important component. Eileen Palese said that the purpose of the CAB is to go out to the community and to bring feedback to the CAB. Judy Burns said that most people just want to know if they are drinking contaminated water. Once they are told no, they are satisfied.

Cheri Bludau said her concern is that she finds people get agitated when she tells them about the contamination in the aquifer. She says there has not been a lot of public information, media coverage, lately. Judy Burns said she has invited people to attend the meetings, such as Channel 9 because the studio is located on the edge of the landfill. Inviting people to the meetings is also a form of outreach. She said the CAB has done well with this over the years, as well as with some good media coverage.

Gretchen Wagenseller said that she is working on the Responsiveness Summary for the Remedial Objectives received during public comment. Several comments were received. She will get copies of the report to the CAB. She said the next step is to prepare the Draft Remedial Objectives Report where there will be a public comment period. And then the FS will be completed. It does not have a public comment period stipulated. She said there will be one when the preliminary Remedial Action Plan is developed.

## **7. Other Administrative Business**

There was no other administrative business to report.

## **8. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion**

The next meeting of the Broadway-Pantano CAB will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at Eastside City Hall, Room A, 7575 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO, at (520) 628-6712, or email at [palese.eileen@azdeq.gov](mailto:palese.eileen@azdeq.gov), for meeting information and proposed agenda.

Alison Jones said that Ralph Marra, City of Tucson, asked to be invited to speak at the next meeting on the status of the central well field and the concerns of Tucson Water relating to the site. She said he will be asking for more delineation at the toe of the plume by ADEQ because the city believes this is a critical situation for Tucson Water. He would appreciate a half-hour presentation. The CAB agreed.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

*This meeting was recorded on a digital device as a record of the proceedings. To listen to a recording, or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.*